Curios and Relics

Furniture

Beds

Owned by Lincoln in Indiana

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009 085 04458

Helena M Benson
26327 Bellsporte
Harbor City Calif.

Dear Sir

The librian at Los Angeles exposition park gave me your address and thought you may be able to help me. I have a bed stead that at one time belonged to Abraham Lincoln it has been in our family since 1903 and was 82 (123) years old when it came in our possession.

Abraham Lincoln had a sale in Indiana before moving to Ill. to enter politics and at this sale a man named John Swallow

bought a black walnut bed
the head end was 8 ft high
at that time.

John Swallow moved later to
Gibson City Ill. and lived on
a farm with a son John and
another son Frank had
adjoining farm. my folks
Albert Bethke lived across
the road from them and
bought the bed in 1903 as
John Swallows house had a
low ceiling. my folks have
moved it around considerably
and the top crown has been
destroyed so it is only 6 ft high
now. the head end came in 2
sections.

My folks both passed

away recently so the bed was given to me and I am trying to prove these statements.

I have contacted Frank Swallow who was a younger son but he is 90 years of age now, and all I could get from him was "what you say may be true but I can't remember.

I wonder if you might have some record of the sale or anything that would help me to prove the truth of this story.

Any help you can give me will be greatly appreciated

Sincerely

Helen M Brown

2032 Bellaporte

Harbor City Calif.

April 12, 1949

Helene M. Benson
26327 Belleporte
Harbor City, California

My dear Madam:

We have attempted to trace the old bed which has come into your possession, but we are unable to find any evidence of its sale.

Of course, when the Lincolns left Indiana for Illinois, Abraham was only twenty-one years of age, and I think probably the bed must have been acquired in Illinois possibly at some point where the Lincolns lived there.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

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